

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02380 191426Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 NEAE-00 /092 W

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P R 191330Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4667

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2380

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SF, SG

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF VORSTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

REF: STATE 091610, DAKAR 5090

1. SENEGALESE MEDIA COVERAGE OF VORSTER VISIT TO ISRAEL HAS BEEN LOW-KEY AND CONFINED TO REPLAY OF WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS.

2. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, VISIT MAY PROVIDE SOME AMMUNITION TO STUDENT AND INTELLECTUAL HARDLINERS WHO HAVE OPPOSED PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S PAST FEELERS TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA. HOWEVER, SINCE SENGHOR DID NOT RECEIVE FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO LST YEAR'S PROPOSAL TO SEND SENEGALESE JURISTS TO SOUTH AFRICA, HE HAS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 DAKAR 02380 191426Z

TAKEN HIS DISTANCE FROM "DIALOGUE" CONCEPT IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS

(ENDORISING OAU POSITION THAT DIALOGUE MUST BEING INTERNALLY WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA); HIS VULNERABILITY TO CRITICISM ON THIS SCORE IS THUS LIMITED.

3. ALTHOUGH SENEGAL WAS PREPARED TO HAVE ISRAEL MAINTAIN SOME SORT OF OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN DAKAR AFTER RELATIONS WERE BROKEN IN OCTOBER 1973, WE HAVE SEEN NO SIGN THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS HAS BEEN UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. SENEGAL HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON FORGING LINKS TO ARAB WORLD AND POSING AS PIONEER IN REALM OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION. DURING SENGHOR'S NOVEMBER 1975 TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST, HE REPORTEDLY TOOK HARD LINE LINKING CONSIDERATION OF RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, VORSTER VISIT IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT OTHER THAN TO CONFIRM TO SENEGALESE WISDOM OF THEIR PRESENT POLICIES. ON OTHER HAND, VISIT UNLIKELY TO INFLUENCE SENEGAL TO CHANGE ITS POSITION AGAINST EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM UN, SINCE GOS HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY FOR GOOD OF UN AS INSTITUTION.

4. ARABS AND RADICAL AFRICANS MAY WELL SEIZE ON VISIT TO ATTEMPT EMBARRASS MODERATES AT CURRENT DAKAR AFRO-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONFERENCE, BUT SENEGALESE CREDENTIALS AS HOST TO THIS MINISTERIAL MEETING AND TO JANUARY NAMIBIA CONFERENCE SHOULD DO MUCH TO INSULATE GOS FROM CRITICISM FOR ANY ALLEGED SOFTNESS TOWARD EITHER ISRAEL OR SOUTH AFRICA. AGGREY

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